

August 4, 2020

Dear parents, guardians and families,

Recently I wrote to you that in-person classes will resume this fall, following the direction of the Government of Alberta. To prepare for our students and staff to return, our Division developed our [COVID-19 Division Re-entry Strategy](#) to help families understand what school will look like this year. Our strategy follows the guidance and direction from the chief medical officer of health and Government of Alberta and focuses on three themes: family choice, mitigating risk and continuity of learning.

Family choice

We know returning to in-person classes may not be best for all students and feel that families know what's best for their child. Families can choose whether their child will attend in-person classes or receive online instruction at home. You will be receiving information later next week providing the process for indicating online or in-person learning. This choice will be offered in quarters (two-month periods) four times throughout the year. Before the start of each quarter, families will be asked to indicate through SchoolZone whether their child will attend in-person classes or receive online instruction.

In-person and online instruction

Students choosing in-person classes will be in a classroom at their school. Students choosing online instruction will remain enrolled at the school where they registered for 2020-2021. However, their teacher may not be from their school and they may have students from other schools in their group. See the [COVID-19 Division Re-entry Strategy](#) for detailed information about in-person and online learning.

We're in this together

These are unprecedented times for our Division, and parents are essential partners in helping us keep students and staff safe. Before coming to school each day, all students and staff must complete the [Government of Alberta's COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire](#) (which is also [available in several languages](#)). Students and staff with any symptoms noted on the questionnaire **cannot attend school** and must follow the steps outlined by the Government of Alberta before their return. Families are not required to submit the form to the school. It is a tool to assess their child's wellness before sending them to school.

Risk mitigation and safety

We know this year will look differently than it has before. Our schools will do everything they can to mitigate risk by following the safety guidelines outlined in the [Government of Alberta's school re-entry plan](#). This includes: screening for illness, handwashing and sanitizing, physical distancing where possible, enhanced cleaning standards, strict illness protocols, personal protective equipment (PPE), masks and cohorts. All staff and students in Grades 4–12 will be required to wear a mask when physical distancing at school and in the classroom is not possible, as one way to help reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

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We are also asking K–3 students who are physically, psychologically or developmentally able to wear a mask, to do so.

All K–12 students will each receive two reusable masks.

Schools will share school-specific information mid-August to help students and families understand safety protocols in place at their school. I encourage you to go over the COVID-19 Division Re-entry Strategy and school-specific information with your child so they know what to expect in September.

Thank you again for your partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrel Robertson', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools

